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ERRORS



IN

# SCHOOL-BOOKS.

Dedicated to the Advancement of Learning.

SECOND EDITION.



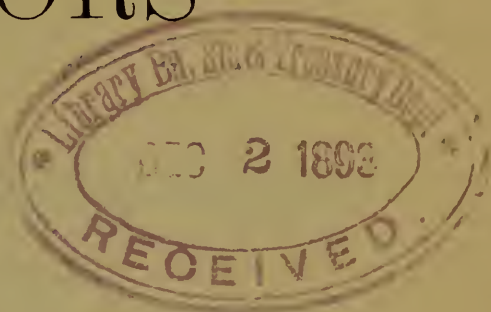
BOSTON:  
ALBERT A. POPE.  
1893.



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*✓*  
*Albert A. Pope*



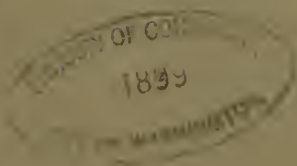
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# ERRORS IN SCHOOL-BOOKS.

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*To all Persons interested in the Advancement of Learning:*

In submitting to you Errors in School-Books we call your attention to the previous search for errors which we instituted over a year ago and invited teachers to compete. The details concerning that search, and the results finally obtained, are fully set forth in the following pages. We have now decided to institute another search for errors more comprehensive than the former; and, as truth has no limitations, we have decided to invite all persons throughout the world to join in the search for the elimination of errors from the text-books or school-books of the United States. There are many persons not school-teachers who take deep interest in education, and who have expressed their disappointment at not being invited to compete in searching for errors in school-books.

Here in the United States we recognize that there is no monopoly of brains, and that intellectual strength may exist in any individual, however humble his situation in life, and we are of the opinion that it is possible that some of the most successful competitors may be outside the ranks of school-teachers. Therefore, we earnestly urge every one who wishes to benefit the school children of the country to send to us any statement that may appear erroneous in any school-book.

As an additional stimulus we have decided to award one of our best pneumatic-tired Columbia Safeties, '93 pattern, price \$150, to each of the five persons who shall send to us the greatest number of errors which shall be determined to be errors by the publishers and the authors of the books in which they occur, or by a board of examiners which we may appoint.

These alleged errors must be received by us prior to September 1, 1893. The conditions upon which awards will be given will be substantially the same as the conditions clearly stated in the former circulars, that is to say, first, the error must be one that appears in some text-book or school-book in the English language, used in some university, college, academy, or school of any description, and the error must be one that is susceptible of proof and is taught in lectures or lessons, and not merely a typographical mistake, or an error inadvertently made in spelling or grammar. Disputed points of history or of opinion will not be considered errors in this offer. After the contest is closed the results will be published in pamphlet form and distributed throughout the country. In the pamphlets will appear the names of all persons who send to us errors which are deemed of sufficient importance by author or publisher to cause the plates to be changed.

In cases where the same error is forwarded to us by two or more persons, and the counting of the error affects the number of errors to be credited to the two or more persons sending in the same error, then duplicates will be credited to the person first sending them.

The following additional rules must be observed by persons sending in alleged errors: There must be given the name of the book; the name of the author, if known; the name and address of the publishers; and the number of the page upon which the error occurs; also the exact words which contain the error, and a clear explanation of the correction which should be made. The error must be one which appears in a book in common use, and if the error be one which has been previously corrected in later editions then it cannot be counted.

All communications must be addressed to the EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT, POPE MANUFACTURING COMPANY, BOSTON, MASS.

Very respectfully yours,

ALBERT A. POPE, PRESIDENT.

## To the School-Teachers of the United States.

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In compliance with the conditions set forth in the accompanying circulars, a Columbia bicycle has been awarded to each of the school-teachers whose names are appended :

*Miss Phebe F. Burtch*, MORRISON, ILL.

(Corrections made in two school-books.)

*Miss Sarah C. Denison*, PITTSFORD, VT.

(Corrections made in two school-books.)

*Miss Mary J. Roome*, CLARENDON HILLS, MASS.

*Mr. Charles M. Parker*, TAYLORSVILLE, ILL.

*Mr. Harold J. Fay*, WESTBOROUGH, MASS.

*Mr. F. William Harkins*, CHICAGO, ILL.

Although by the terms of the first circular but one of these — the first from whom we received an acknowledged error — could claim the prize, we decided to award each of them a bicycle, because their letters, containing errors, were mailed at about the same time.

In our second circular we offered to give a bicycle to any teacher sending us a number of important errors. Only two teachers sent more than one error which was admitted by the publishers ; to these ladies we award bicycles.

It is our hope that this search for errors will be continued, so that the ultimate perfection of school-books may be assured.

Very respectfully,

ALBERT A. POPE, PRES.

NOTE.—A Ladies' Safety was sent, when desired, in place of the Columbia Expert to each of the above-mentioned lady teachers.



## The Following Letters are Self-Explanatory.

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MORRISON, ILL., March 23.

POPE MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

*Gentlemen:* — The bicycle which you sent me arrived a week or ten days ago. It has been much admired here as well as in Clinton, Iowa. I thank you most heartily for it.

Yours respectfully,

PHEBE F. BURTCH.

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PITTSFORD, VT., March 18.

POPE MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

*Sirs:* — I was greatly surprised and delighted in receiving such a beautiful bicycle.

I had often heard of such things happening but never could believe that they were really true; and even now it seems incredible that for two such insignificant errors I should receive such a fine present.

Hoping you will receive my heartiest thanks, I am,

Respectfully yours,

SARAH C. DENISON.

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CLARENDON HILLS, March 13.

POPE MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

*Dear Sirs:* — The bicycle which you awarded me has come. Please accept my sincere thanks for your kind and generous gift. It must have taken a great deal of time and energy to collect and examine all errors. The value of your work is shown in the replies sent back by the publishers.

The machine is a handsome one, and has been admired by all who have seen it. It will be a great source of pleasure to me to ride it.

Very gratefully yours,

MARY J. ROOME.



# ERRORS IN SCHOOL-BOOKS.

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Some time ago we issued and distributed among the school-teachers of this country the following circular:—

TO THE SCHOOL-TEACHERS OF THE UNITED STATES:—

The Pope Manufacturing Company, of Boston, Massachusetts, offer as a prize a Columbia Expert Bicycle (this machine is of the same pattern as that used by Stevens in his bicycle tour around the world) to any teacher who may be the first to inform them of any misstatement of fact which may appear in any school-book studied in this country under the authority of any school committee. The error must be one that is taught in the lessons and not a mere typographical mistake, or an error inadvertently made in spelling or grammar. Disputed points of history will not be considered errors in this offer. Communications on this subject must be addressed to the "Department of Education," Pope Manufacturing Company.

What is meant by misstatement is something that all the best authorities agree to be such, as, for example, in "Harper's Introductory Geography," on page 15, Lesson X, the following misstatement is made: "For the earth has two different motions all the time. It turns around on itself—so to speak—that is one motion; and it moves in a circle around the sun—this is the other motion." This book is now used in the public schools of Brookline, Massachusetts.

Every intelligent person knows that the earth's orbit is an ellipse, as was demonstrated by Kepler, whose laws of planetary motion formed the ground work of Newton's discoveries and are the starting point of modern astronomy. It is obviously wrong to teach children things that they must unlearn as they grow older, and school-teachers can do no greater service to education than to point out the errors that should be eradicated from text-books.

Very respectfully yours,

ALBERT A. POPE, PRESIDENT.

This circular attracted the immediate attention of teachers of public schools of all grades, professors in colleges and universities, publishers of educational journals and school text-books. The plan received from the first the hearty commendation of teachers, who entered into the contest eagerly, many avowing the prize a secondary consideration. Space will permit us to give but a few extracts from their letters expressing approval. They are as follows:—

“ . . . . Hope that it may be the means of helping, at least a little, in the endeavor to have text-books free from error. . . . ”

“ . . . . It certainly should be encouraged with great enthusiasm. . . . ”

“ . . . . Whether you agree with me or not, I will be very glad to hear from you as the subject is of interest to me. . . . ”

“ . . . . Having become interested in the matter of errors in text-books, I take it as a privilege to be able to call attention to another very grievous mistake which I discovered in ——’s Grammar. . . . ”

“ . . . . Since this point relates to so important a matter, I will be glad to have it investigated, and hope that in its correction a step may be taken towards an improvement in our English grammars. . . . ”

“ . . . . It gives me great pleasure to see the interest you take in education. . . . ”

“ . . . . I agree with you that a crusade against mistakes in our text-books would be beneficial to sound knowledge. . . . ”

“ . . . . Misstatements annoy me always, and especially when taught in our schools. Trusting you may be instrumental in correcting many such. . . . ”

“ . . . . Thanking you for the advantages that must accrue to pupils and teachers from your enterprising offer whether I am among the chosen few, I am, nevertheless. . . . ”

“ . . . . I shall rejoice if your plan succeeds in eradicating the mistakes from our text-books. . . . ”

“ . . . . Hoping you will have great success in your crusade against poor instruction. . . . ”

These expressions and many others, of which we were the recipients, encouraged us to re-issue the circular, with the following addenda:—

The result of this offer has been to create a deep and wide-spread interest, and a large number of errors were pointed out by teachers.

Letters are received from educators throughout the country commendatory of the effort to eliminate misstatements of facts in school-books, and urging that the corrections be published. Before taking this step we desire to communicate with the authors and publishers, to ascertain if there be any serious objections to such a course.

In connection with the subject we wish to pay the highest possible tribute to the excellence and thoroughness of the text-books of the schools of the United States, and we recognize that even with the greatest of care errors will creep into all human work, be it what it may. It will be remembered that there was an edition of the Bible printed in which through inadvertence the word "not" was omitted in one of the commandments. What greater service can be rendered than to see to it that children are taught truth and not error? In doing this work all that are engaged in it must feel that it is the performance of a duty of inestimable value.

To illustrate what has been stated as to the careful manner in which school-books have been prepared, it may be said that there has been sent to us but one misstatement in Webster's Dictionary, and but two in Prof. Fiske's "Civil Government in the United States." The grammar-school geographies apparently have been the most prolific in errors.

The above original offer was a Columbia Expert Bicycle to the person from whom we should first receive a misstatement. In response to the circular we received a number of replies and will forward to the school-teacher first on the list the prize bicycle. We regret to state that in a few instances an apparent misunderstanding of the circular, due probably to its being published in some newspapers in a condensed form, has caused some persons to suppose that a bicycle would be given for *every* error sent to us. A glance at the original offer will convince anyone to the contrary. However, as we have had our attention called by some teachers to a number of noteworthy errors in text-books, we have also decided to present them with a bicycle. The machine will be of the same pattern as that of the prize bicycle mentioned above. The awards will be made as soon as the errors can be verified and the replies from the text-book writers and publishers printed. We wish to state that we believe that it would tend to the advancement of education if an association were to be formed for the special purpose of eliminating errors from school and college text-books. Instructors, writers, and publishers should be invited to become members. Substantial awards should be offered for the detection of errors.

To aid in the formation of such an association we would be glad to have the privilege of giving one hundred dollars. We should also be pleased to receive communications and suggestions from teachers and others interested, with a view of laying the matter before some of the leading educators of the country, in hopes that they will form the association.

All communications relating to this circular should be addressed to the DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

Very respectfully yours,

ALBERT A. POPE, PRESIDENT.

MARCH 28, 1892.

Thousands of these circulars were distributed throughout the United States from Maine to Oregon, and our suggestion that an organized society, whose purpose should be the elimination of errors, was favorably received by several teachers. We herewith insert extracts of a few of the letters received, testifying to particular, and indicating general, approbation.

“ . . . . I will help form a society, such as you spoke of in your printed circular. . . . ”

“ . . . . I am certainly much pleased at the idea expressed in your circular. It is that of forming an association for eliminating errors in text-books. Such a move would stimulate investigation and result in no small profit. . . . ”

“ . . . . I think the idea a good one. How would it do to get the *New England Journal of Education* into it? I think that the various publishers would favor it. I hope your scheme will be carried out. . . . ”

“ . . . . I heartily concur in what you say about the formation of an association for the purpose of eliminating errors from school text-books. . . . ”

“ . . . . Permit me to compliment you on the work you have undertaken. The organization you speak of would be an excellent thing. I would suggest that you print the errors sent in, and send copies to all who contributed. . . . ”

“ . . . . Permit me to congratulate you upon the thoroughness with which you are sustaining to the end the work you have undertaken. . . . ”

“ . . . . I consider it absolutely impossible for any one author to produce a work whose every statement will stand the fire of criticisms. Nevertheless, the compilers of many of the modern text-books come



in for a large share of blame on the score of pure carelessness, their errors and misstatements disappearing from their works only after repeated editions have been published. I look for inestimable good to result from the investigations you have incited, and if the replies to your circular will take the scope and magnitude that I think they will, and these replies are compiled and classified, the result will be a publication of permanent value to every teacher as well as a source of satisfaction to every lover of truth and exactness. . . . ”

It may interest the reader to know something of what the Educational Department has done since the inauguration of the “contest,” by the issuance of the first circular and the promised presentation of bicycles as specified in the second.

When the contest was declared closed the department had received from teachers two hundred and twenty-four letters and eleven postal cards, and these two hundred and thirty-five communications represent one hundred and sixty-eight alleged errors, criticisms, and letters sent subsequent to the criticisms, naming authority for the objection, which was almost invariably called for in event of the critic’s failing to indicate such in his first letter.

As each alleged error was received it was conscientiously copied, word for word, and submitted to the publishers and authors, and their replies were copied, word for word, and forwarded to the critic.

The greatest number of errors were alleged to appear in Geographies, these amounting in all to thirty-eight. Histories and Arithmetics were next most strongly assailed, twenty-one and nineteen criticisms, respectively, standing in the columns against them. Grammar, Natural History, and Readers, with sixteen, twelve, and ten, were next most available to the critical, while Chemistry with eight, Languages, Etymology, and Civil Government seven each, and Physiology with six, follow closely in the order named. Geometry seems comparatively free from error, with but four against it, and Geology and miscellaneous criticisms number two each. Definition, Zoology, English, Anatomy, Astronomy, Botany, Drawing, Trigonometry, and Political Economy complete the list, each being accredited with but one alleged error.

Upon our determination to inaugurate a contest such as has just taken place, we at once submitted the plan to many publishing houses, some of whom deprecated the move we were about to make, and condemned us for interfering in something which as manufacturers of Columbia Bicycles in no way concerned us. Having the teachers upon our side, and a legitimate object to accomplish, we should have continued in spite of any and all opposition. The injury of the school-book publishing business was not our ambition, and we told them so plainly. We desired to conduct the contest in a way which would be to their interest, and that due credit would be accorded to the correction of each and every error which appeared in any form in their books. As a result a majority of publishers joined heartily in correcting errors, and in adding qualifying statements and explanatory notes.

Of the ninety errors alleged against the publications of the American Book Co., twenty-three proved to be errors actually. But when the fact that they published about sixteen hundred different school text-books is taken into consideration, and that these have been subjected to a searching critical scrutiny, stimulated by the hope of reward, it must be conceded that they have withstood a marvelously severe test, and have come off with flying colors. Against Messrs. Ginn & Co., of Boston, who publish five hundred different books, two errors were proved out of eight alleged, and they have every reason to feel proud of this record. Of the two errors alleged to appear in publications of the University Publishing Co. one was admitted. One error each alleged, and that error admitted, is the record of Houghton, Mifflin & Co., publishers of about three hundred different school-books, and P. Blakiston, Son & Co., publishers of about four hundred medical works; while Henry Holt & Co. were pleased to admit one error out of nine alleged. Messrs. E. H. Butler & Co., with five errors, acknowledged out of twelve charged, certainly sustain the reputation of their house, while in justice to them it should be stated that the Butler list was fully doubled Sept. 1, 1891, by the consolidation of Messrs. Cowperthwaite & Co., who prepared and were originally the publishers of Warren's



geographies and some of the other books from which errors were taken by teachers.

Too much stress cannot be laid upon the inducement which invited teachers to point out errors, and their earnestness and eagerness to be among the first often led some of them to become hypercritical, and sometimes not a little unreasonable in their objections to certain teachings.

We quote from one of these letters, a portion of which reads as follows:—

“I would call your attention to page 180, last paragraph, ‘In this continent of ours,’ second book of *Picturesque Readers*, by Charles F. King, Master of the Dearborn School, Boston. In this paragraph referred to is this statement: ‘When very fat, a cod does not bite very readily.’ Now a ‘fat’ cod was never caught on Cape Cod, or seen by any of the people here or elsewhere. A ‘fat’ cod causes the Cape Codder to smile, as a cod is not or never was ‘fat.’ Yours, ———

P. S.— Even the children smile at the mistake.”

This is a fair sample of some of the objections, and such as this have not been unfrequent. One teacher writes as follows:—

“If you will look on page —— of Monteith’s *Geography* you will find the following: ‘When and by whom was North America discovered? In the year 1492, by Christopher Columbus.’ This is an error. . . . The honor belongs to John Cabot.”

To this the natural reply is, the Bahamas and West Indies are properly taught in all geographies as being a part of North America.

As a rule, the correspondence that has passed through us from teacher to publishers and authors and back again has been exceedingly interesting, highly instructive, and we regret that it is impossible to publish it, for it would make a valuable and helpful publication. For the reason that it would not be well to perpetuate an error by calling attention to it in a pamphlet of this kind, which we hope to circulate broadly, we shall only display the statements as they will substantially appear after correction. There are thirty-four of these, and we leave the reader to judge of their importance.

The corrections to be made by the American Book Co. are as follows:—

### **Norton's Elements of Natural Philosophy.**

“‘The fixed stars annually radiate sufficient heat to the earth to melt an envelope of ice 80 feet thick.’”

IRA O. BAKER,

Champaign, Ill.

“ . . . . We do not believe that the fixed stars radiate anything like this amount of heat to the earth, and shall make proper correction in the book. Whether the author quoted correctly some erroneous statement is a matter which we cannot decide. We think it probable, however, that he misquoted an accurate statement, and that this should be considered a misstatement of fact.”

AMERICAN BOOK CO.

### **Peterman's Elements of Civil Government.**

The definition of poll-tax conveyed a wrong impression. The corrected statement will read substantially—

“ . . . . After a certain age, usually twenty-one.”

P. F. BURTCH, Morrison, Ill.

“Erroneous as criticised, and has been corrected.”

AMERICAN BOOK CO.

### **Peterman's Elements of Civil Government.**

“Against the teachings in Peterman's Elements of Civil Government, touching the power of the Legislature to suspend laws, examine Article XX of the Declaration of Rights of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, which reads: ‘The power of suspending the laws, or the execution of the laws, ought never to be exercised but by the Legislature or by the authority derived from it. . . .’”

H. A. MACGOWAN, Scituate, Mass.

“ . . . . Erroneous as criticised, and has been corrected. . . .”

AMERICAN BOOK CO.

### **Steele's Fourteen Weeks in Zoology.**

“‘The hog's skull is adapted to rooting in the ground for food, as the canines project horizontally.’”

P. F. BURTCH,

Morrison, Ill.

“This should be incisors and not canines. A proper change will be made in the plates.”

AMERICAN BOOK CO.

### **Harvey's Graded Speller.**

"The root of the word polish is *po*, and not as given. . . ."

EDWARD MANLEY, Bloomington, Ill.

"Permit us to say that we think the criticism well taken, and shall make a suitable change in the plates. . . ."

AMERICAN BOOK CO.

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### **Eclectic Elementary Geography.**

"The definition of climate does not agree with this in the Century Dictionary: 'The characteristic condition of a country or region, in respect to amount of variation of heat and cold, moisture and dryness, wind and calm, etc., weather is a state of the air or atmosphere with respect to its meteorological phenomena.' Also, 'The atmospheric condition prevailing at any moment over any region of the earth.'"

JESSIE R. TARBOX, Williamsburg, Mass.

"We will make it to read, 'Climate is closely connected with weather.' The kind of weather that is usual to a place is said to be the climate of that place. . . ."

AMERICAN BOOK CO.

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### **Swinton's English Grammar.**

"Analysis of sentence. 'The ocean is as deep as the mountains are high. . . . ' This statement is not true, for both the adverb and the clause are modifiers of the adjective deep. . . ."

R. B. CUNNINGHAM,

Rock Hill, S. C.

". . . . We have received a letter today from Mr. Cunningham. It seems that we did not fully catch his point from your copy of his criticism, but he has made himself clear in his letter. . . .

"We will add a clause to the passage that will remove all possible ambiguity. . . ."

AMERICAN BOOK CO.

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### **Swinton's Grammar-School Geography.**

"'Now, the north pole, or more correctly the earth's axis, points about one degree, thirty minutes, from the north star.' . . ."

PETER C. KNAPP,

Cold Spring, N. Y.

". . . . Erroneous as criticised, and has been corrected."

AMERICAN BOOK CO.

**Harper's Fourth Reader.**

" . . . . 'I am going in,' said the white morning-glory vine. Then it began to creep through a crack in the window frame, and in a week's time it hung in a lovely festoon from the curtain and had thrown its slender tendrils [?] around the marble statue of the little angel."

WILLIAM H. HUSE,

Manchester, N. H.

" . . . . Statement has been changed to conform to fact."

AMERICAN BOOK CO.

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**Townsend's Civil Government.**

"According to the law of the United States, there is an exception touching the subject of naturalization,—for it is possible 'for a soldier who served one year in the United States Army, and having obtained an honorable discharge, to become a citizen of the United States, on making oath to these facts and taking the oath of allegiance.' . . ."

GEORGE VAN VLACK, Jamestown, N. Y.

"We will change the plates and note the exception to which the critic calls attention."

AMERICAN BOOK CO.

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**Barnes' Complete Geography. (Iowa and Mo. edition.)**

"A statement is made in regard to the judicial power of Iowa. . . . There is no Circuit Court in Iowa, and has not been for some years. . . ."

MISS MOLLIE THOMPSON,

Parkersburg, Iowa.

"Erroneous as criticised, and has been corrected."

AMERICAN BOOK CO.

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**Barnes' Complete Geography.**

" . . . . In Barnes' Complete Geography you will find the statement. . . . This is an error. As a matter of fact, the earth turns on its axis  $366\frac{1}{4}$  times a year; but as a solar day is some four minutes longer than a sidereal day (the exact time of the earth's rotation on its axis), on account of the earth's onward motion in its orbit, there are but  $365\frac{1}{4}$  days in the year. This is a noted error, and is probably in many text-books."

GEORGE MORRIS PHILLIPS,

West Chester, Pa.

"Erroneous as criticised, and has been corrected."

AMERICAN BOOK CO.



### **Eggleston's History of the United States.**

"Should state that General Robert E. Lee was born on January 19, 1807. . . ."

C. H. HILL, Romney, W. Va.

" . . . . Erroneous as criticised, and has been corrected."

AMERICAN BOOK CO.

### **Quackenbos' Natural Philosophy.**

"There is a misstatement of fact in Quackenbos' Natural Philosophy concerning the velocity with which sounds, 'whether loud or faint, high or low, are transmitted by a given medium.' . . . ."

GEORGE H. TRACY, Bristol, Conn.

"This statement, that there are sounds which, high or low, are transmitted by a given medium with equal rapidity, is not strictly true, and we modify it accordingly."

AMERICAN BOOK CO.

### **Quackenbos' Natural Philosophy.**

" . . . . 'Thus we see that water is raised in pumps of atmospheric pressure. The air will support a column of water 32 to 34 feet high. *To this elevation*, therefore, water can be raised with the lifting-pump.'

"There are many wells fifty feet deep from which water is drawn by the lifting pump. The sentence underlined in question above might read: 'If it is required to raise water from a well of great depth, then this, the piston-rod, can be made long enough to keep the piston within 32 feet of the surface of the water, and the water raised above the piston by atmospheric pressure can be lifted by the piston and rod to any height required.'"

LEWIS E. SMITH, Portsmouth, N. H.

" . . . . Modification of this statement regarding the lifting-pump will be made. . . ."

AMERICAN BOOK CO.

### **Quackenbos' History of the United States.**

" . . . . 'The number of mounds erected by the early and civilized inhabitants of this continent is variously estimated.' There are about twelve thousand in the State of Ohio alone.

"On the same page: 'Among the most remarkable fortifications are those near Newark, Ohio.' Newark, Ohio, is not given a correct geographical location. It should read: 'At the junction of two branches of the Licking River.'"

J. W. VAN SICKLE, LL.D.,

Springfield, Ohio.

" . . . . We have changed the statement. . . ."

AMERICAN BOOK CO.

**Ray's New Higher Arithmetic.**

" . . . . On page 203 will be found this problem: 'How large sales must I make in a year at a profit of eight per cent to clear \$2000?' The answer given is evidently a mistake of the author, who himself took the cost of goods for the amount of sales. The cost is \$25,000, and in order to clear \$2000 he must make sales amounting to \$27,000. . . ."

W. H. BODEN, Mineral, Ohio.

" . . . . This answer should be \$27,000, and the plates have been changed accordingly."

AMERICAN BOOK Co.

**Monteith's First-Part Geography.**

" . . . . In Monteith's First-Part Geography is the question, 'Which is inland?' the same referring to the inland countries of South America. . . ."

E. P. GIFFORD, North Middletown, Ky.

" . . . . There are two inland countries in South America, and the verb in the question, 'Which is inland?' shall be changed accordingly to 'are.'"

AMERICAN BOOK Co.

**Monteith's Geography.**

" . . . . 'The axis of the earth is an imaginary line on which it performs its daily motion.' The claim I have is this: that, according to a geometric definition of a line, which has length only, that is no more an 'imaginary line' than the State line between Massachusetts and Connecticut, or any other arbitrary line. In fact, there is no such thing as an 'imaginary line' in the true sense of the word. No one ever saw a line or perceived it by any of his five senses."

W. C. RAMSEY, Stockton, Cal.

" . . . . This shall be changed by striking out the word 'imaginary.' . . . ."

AMERICAN BOOK Co.

**Wells' Science of Common Things.**

" . . . . The following statement and question appear: 'In a sheet of water at noon the sun appears to shine only on one side and all the rest of the water is dark. Why is this?' The answer is not true. All the rays of the sun coming to our earth are practically parallel and reflected parallel. . . ."

DR. JOHN SPARE, A.M.,

New Bedford, Mass.

" . . . . A modification of this statement is required here, which we take pleasure in making. The critic is right in stating that both



the incident and the reflected rays of the sun are practically parallel. We see the reflected image by those rays only which enter our eye. The other direct rays reflected from the water's surface do not enter the eye, and hence the surface outside the reflected image of the sun appears relatively dark."

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AMERICAN BOOK CO.

### **Barnes' Brief History of the United States.**

"In Barnes' Brief History of the United States the following objection is taken to the statement that 'He [General Lyon] fell gallantly leading a bayonet charge.' As a matter of fact, the army under Lyon's immediate control were not supplied with bayonets."

RICHARD ROHRER, Junction City, Kan.

" . . . . In regard to the criticism of the fall of Gen. Lyon, while 'leading a bayonet charge,' would say that we are unable to find any authority for the critic's position that there were no bayonets in the possession of the 5000 men constituting Lyon's force at that time; nor do we find the statement made in any of our authorities that the force was supplied with bayonets. The essential fact is that Lyon fell while gallantly leading a charge. We shall therefore remove the word 'bayonet' before the next edition is printed, thus disarming our critic's objection without changing the sense of the statement. . . ."

AMERICAN BOOK CO.

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### **Swinton's Outline of the World's History.**

"In this history Servius Tullius is given a wrong numerical position in the line of the kings of Rome. There were seven kings in all, as the author himself says, Tarquines Superbus being the seventh and last, his predecessor, Servius Tullius, must have been the sixth."

L. R. LEVERING, Nazareth, Pa.

" . . . . Servius Tullius was the sixth king of Rome, and not . . . as stated in the text. The plates have been corrected accordingly."

AMERICAN BOOK CO.

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### **Niles' History.**

"In this history the date of the birth of Henry Clay near Richmond, Va., is erroneously given."

HAROLD J. FAY,

Westborough, Mass.

" . . . . Concerning the date of the birth of Henry Clay; this should be 1777. A proper correction in the plates will be made. . . ."

AMERICAN BOOK CO.

**Butler's Elementary Geography.**

"In the map questions on North America, the last question in the second paragraph: 'What strait connects the Caribbean Sea with the Atlantic Ocean?' On the map there is no strait named."

MISS S. C. DENISON, Pittsford, Vt.

" . . . . In regard to what strait connects the Caribbean Sea with the Atlantic Ocean, it is well founded so far as the book which the teacher had is concerned. A correction had been made on the map but apparently overlooked in the map questions. . . . "

E. H. BUTLER & Co.

**Butler's Elementary Geography.**

"On page 57 another discrepancy in a statement concerning Rutland, Vt."

MISS S. C. DENISON,  
Pittsford, Vt.

"In regard to Rutland, Vt., she is possibly literally and strictly correct, although in any other section of the country Rutland would be accepted as a city. We have reduced it to the ranks, however."

E. H. BUTLER & Co.

**Butler's Complete Geography.**

" . . . . On page 110 I find a statement concerning the Hoang Ho River which is not true. The Hoang Ho River now discharges its waters into the Gulf of Pe Chee Lee. It formerly discharged its waters into the Yellow Sea, about 200 miles north of the mouth of the Yang-tse-Kiang. . . . "

T. C. CLOYD,  
Morrisville, Ill.

"We are in receipt of your letter in reference to page 110, Butler's Complete Geography. This note is not absolutely incorrect, as the Hoang Ho, according to Chinese records, did formerly flow into the Gulf of Pe Chee Lee, at about the mouth of the Pei Ho. In the last twenty-five hundred years the river has changed its course nine times. Immediately prior to 1851, however, it flowed into the Yellow Sea, and within two years from that date had forced a passage into the Gulf of Pe Chee Lee, nearly three hundred miles north of its former mouth. While the statements contained in the note are correct, yet we can easily see how a wrong impression might be produced, and we will therefore modify the wording accordingly."

E. H. BUTLER & Co.

**Warren's New Physical Geography.** 1890 Edition.

"The definition of temperature is wrong, for by all authorities temperature is held to be the intensity of heat or degrees of heat or cold, the amount of heat being measured in calories."

J. PAUL GOODE, Morehead, Minn.

" . . . . In reply we have to admit that the statement in regard to heat is not technically correct, and we will therefore have it modified. . . . "

E. H. BUTLER & Co.

**Warren's Common School Geography.**

"This book does not state correctly the proportion in area that the European peninsulas bear to Europe entire. The author of the above is at variance with another of his own works, Warren's Primary Geography."

MISS MARY F. ROOME,

Clarendon Hills, Mass.

" . . . . This is one of the mistakes we purchased, and we assure you we will have it corrected. . . . "

E. H. BUTLER & Co.

**Remsen's Elements of Chemistry.**

"Here appears an erroneous statement concerning the formation of a salt by the action of an acid on metal: 'Every metal can form a salt with every acid.'"

F. W. HARKINS, Chicago, Ill.

"The statement on page 93 is erroneous and it will be changed at the first opportunity, and I thank my critic for calling attention to it. A letter addressed to me when this error was first discovered would have received prompt attention, and I regret that my critic did not inform me at that time. . . . "

(Signed) IRA REMSEN.

" . . . We wish to renew our thanks to you for services rendered."

HENRY HOLT & Co.

**Potter's Anatomy.** 1891 Edition.

"The correct definition of 'coronoid' should be like a crow's beak instead of the definition now given."

CARLETON MITCHELL,

Tuscaloosa, Ala.

" . . . . We beg to thank you for calling our attention to the error in Potter's Anatomy, and will be very glad to have notes of any mistakes found in other books published by us."

P. BLAKISTON, SON & Co.

**Fiske's Civil Government.**

"On page 278 there appears an erroneous statement concerning the date fixed by act of Congress, Feb. 3, 1887, for the meeting of the electoral colleges in all States. The act referred to above fixes the second Monday in January as the time of meeting of the electoral colleges. . . ."

C. M. PARKER, Taylorsville, Ill.

" . . . . We thank you for calling our attention to the error referred to in your previous letter. We shall be glad to have you mention the fact that this error was discovered and corrected at your instigation. . . ."

HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN & Co.

**Greenough's Virgil.**

"In a note to line 116, Book 2, Æneid, Aulis is given a geographical location not correct."

A. H. ABBOTT, Farmington, Me.

" . . . . The note should read that Aulis was on the Eubœan Strait. We are grateful for having this called to our attention."

GINN & Co.

**Knox-Heath's Elementary Lessons in English.**

" . . . . 'When we meet again,' 'And when you say the word,' should be called clauses. . . ."

C. H. COLLIER, Memphis, Tenn.

"Replying further to yours of recent date we beg to say the criticism upon the statement as it is found in Knox-Heath's Grammar is well founded, and the book will be corrected."

GINN & Co.

**Sanford's Common School Arithmetic.**

" . . . . On page 267 you will find this erroneous teaching in bank discount. . . . To see that this is a misstatement of facts all you have to do is to draw your note on any bank in Boston conforming to the above conditions, and take the said note to the bank and have them discount it. The true statement of the facts governing the above case is as follows: 'When a note drawing interest is discounted at a bank the discount is computed on the amount at the time of its maturity.'

"I would further ask you to examine the same work referred to above, page 268, examples 1 and 4. These two examples, taken in connection with the remarks stated in my last question, clearly indicate that the author has made a mistake in the facts or principles by which such questions should be solved."

H. T. LYTTLETON,

Marshall, Texas.



The above questions were submitted to the University Publishing Co., who responded as follows:—

“The statement regarding bank discount seems to be proper, and the example mentioned as incorrect has the right answer attached. We shall be very glad to have you send us all the criticisms on our books which you may receive from your correspondents, and errors which are clearly such, or can be so proved by reliable authority, will be cheerfully rectified. We would observe that it is a simple matter to claim a thing is wrong, but another to substitute a correct statement. We would suggest that your correspondent state clearly where in our text-books under consideration are in error, and what should be the correct statement.”

This communication we copied and forwarded to the critic in Texas, who, being properly persistent in a matter in which he was confident he was right, began a correspondence with the University Publishing Co., who subsequently wrote us that they had received a letter from our Texas correspondent. Later we received a communication from Mr. Lyttleton, who encloses the following letter from the publishing company:

“H. T. LYTTLETON, ESQ.,

Principal Marshall Normal School, Marshall, Texas.

DEAR SIR:—

We have your esteemed favor of May 26th regarding the criticism of Sanford's Arithmetic. The criticism reported to us by the Pope Mfg. Co. related to the treatment of 'Bank Discount,' on pages 267 and 268 of Sanford's Common School Arithmetic.

The response from us quoted to you by the Pope Mfg. Co. seems to have been hastily made. We shall communicate with Prof. Sanford regarding the proper modification to be made in Article 259-262. The solution of example in Article 259 states principle of bank discount correct, except the inclusion of days of grace, which is explained in Article 262. It would be better to explain days of grace before solving an illustrative example, and thus enable to make the solution a complete modification of the method to be pursued. . . . We are glad to have our attention called to this matter, as we are always pleased to be advised of errors in any of our books. Please let us hear from you. Does the view given above coincide with yours?

UNIVERSITY PUBLISHING CO.”

We have received the following note in reference to the above:—

“The solution of example in Article 259 states the principle of bank discount correctly, except the inclusion of days of grace, which is explained a few lines below in Article 262. It would be better to explain days of grace before solving an illustrated example, and thus be able to make the solution a complete exemplification all in one illustration of the method to be pursued. We thank you for calling our attention to this matter, as we are always desirous that the teachings of our books should be in the plainest form.”

UNIVERSITY PUBLISHING CO.

The task we have undertaken has entailed no inconsiderable amount of labor and patience; and had it not been that the publishers joined with us in this good work in the manner that they have, we are obliged to admit that we could not have accomplished what we have with so little annoyance. We remember in our correspondence of but one instance where the publisher has answered us in anything but a satisfactory manner. The criticism, it seemed to us, and does seem, was reasonable and correct, and being such we print it with as much readiness as though the publisher had fallen into his and our way of thinking and changed his plates accordingly. The correspondence is as follows:—

### **Potter's New Elementary Geography.**

“Page 10, lesson 2, paragraph 1, ‘It [meaning the sun] really stands still.’”

J. F. MILLSPAUGH, Salt Lake City, Utah.

To this the publishers replied:—

“Relating to the two (alleged errors) you name, we beg to say that the one on page 10 of the Elementary is correct according to public estimation, as the sun is supposed to stand still, and for all practical purposes does stand still.”

Without desiring to insult the intelligence of the publishers, yet wishing to re-enforce the position taken by the critic, and approved of by us, we sent to Messrs. John E. Potter & Co., publishers of the work in question, a copy of an excellent article which appeared in the April *Century*, by Prof. Edward S. Holden, of the Lick Observatory.



“We know that the sun turns on its axis once in about twenty-five days. Its equator remains always in one plane. The earth revolves about the sun in a plane which is inclined to the plane of the sun’s equator by about 70 degrees; that is, the earth is sometimes seven degrees above (in September), sometimes seven degrees below (in March), the plane of the sun’s equator. The effect is that sometimes one pole of the sun, sometimes the other, is turned toward a spectator on the earth. Now we know that the sun is covered with spots, confined to two belts which roughly correspond in situation to the temperate zones on the earth. These belts may be compared to regions covered with geysers which are perpetually sending out matter from their interiors. This matter is shot out perpendicular to the surface with high velocity, something like three hundred to four hundred miles per second. Now, if the sun did not revolve on its axis we could make a model to represent this state of things by sticking straight needles into a sphere of cork all around the temperate zones. The needles would represent the streams of matter shot up from the solar surface. But the sun rotates on its axis, and therefore the needles in a proper model must be curved and not straight.”

The same article gives the diameter of the sun as eight hundred and fifty thousand miles. Therefore, in round numbers, the rotation of the sun on its axis must cause a body on its surface to move *four times* as fast as a body on the surface of the earth.

Instead of accomplishing the result we had hoped for, it seemed to have anything but the desired effect, as the following will indicate.

“GENTLEMEN:—

Your favor of the 26th duly received and we note what you say. We are not astronomers, and have given this subject very little attention, so that we cannot enter into the argument with you about it. The commonly received opinion is that the sun stands still, and for all practical purposes this seems to be sufficient to say about it. It is very likely it does not stand still, but the sun is too far away to know very much about it definitely. If you wish to get learned views about it, you will have to see higher authority than the publishers of a geography.

Very truly yours,

JOHN E. POTTER & Co.”

Up to this point we have named only those publishers whose works, containing the errors described, necessitated changes, but we take the opportunity to thank the following publishers, whose books successfully withstood the criticisms which were made against them:—

D. APPLETON & Co., New York.  
CHARLES COLLINS, New York.  
THE COLUMBIA BOOK Co., of St. Louis.  
DYRSEN & PFEIAFFER, New York.  
EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHING Co., Boston, Mass.  
EFFINGHAM, MAYNARD & Co., New York.  
ELDREDGE & BRO., Philadelphia.  
HARPER & BROS., New York.\*  
LEACH, SHEWELL & SANBORN, Boston, Mass.  
J. B. LIPPINCOTT Co., Philadelphia.  
MACMILLAN & Co., New York.  
G. & C. MERRIAM & Co., Springfield, Mass.  
SILVER, BURDETT & Co., Boston, Mass.  
SHELDON & Co., New York.  
WILLIAM WOOD & Co., New York.

We received among our correspondence several suggestions to be applied to any contests that may be inaugurated in the future, one of which we append.

“ . . . . Referring to your circular of the 28th, which I have just received, permit me to express my appreciation of the worth of your ideas and my interest in your plans. Will you allow me to suggest that while misstatements of fact occurring in text-books are of grave importance, mistakes in methods are of vastly greater importance, as they are calculated to produce much greater results for evil? It is bad for a child to learn that the earth moves around the sun in a circle; it is incomparably worse to have him get hold of the subject by the wrong end. If you wish to put your bicycle where it will do the most good for education in this country, why not offer a prize, similar to the one you are about to award, to the one who shall point out the most grievous error in method? . . . . ”

\* Harper's *Introductory Geography*, in which an error was pointed out in our circular and acknowledged, is published by the American Book Co., and not by Harper & Bros.

The greatest error of all those discovered in school-books was the omission to teach the great need and importance of the construction and maintenance of good roads throughout the country. It was an error of omission far greater than any error of commission of which authors or publishers were guilty. The three R's, reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic had been well provided for, but instruction in the fourth R — Roads — had been apparently wholly overlooked, with the exception of an article on Highways in "The Information Reader," by Robert Lewis, Ph.D., published by the Boston School Supply Co.

The time has now come when the public demand that there be better roads. The leading newspapers of the country are agitating the subject. A Memorial of over one hundred printed pages, which contained letters from President Harrison and several members of his cabinet, from many United States Senators and Representatives, from Governors of the States, Army Officers, Presidents of the leading universities and colleges of the country, was prepared under the direction of the President of the Pope Manufacturing Co., and submitted to Congress in July, that the attention of legislators might be drawn to the need of better roads.

But it is the school-teachers of the country who can do most in bringing about this great reform of good roads, by teaching the young, who in a few short years will be the people of the United States, what it is to have good highways. Children should be taught that good roads are great civilizing, educational, and moral agents; they bind communities together by providing easy means of communication, with all the advantages of traffic and the interchange of products; they render the school, academy, and college accessible, and the church and Sunday-school available.

Country life would become far more attractive, and abandoned farms less frequent, if there were good roads. One of the most serious evils society has now to contend with is the problem of "city slums," with its accompanying high death rate. The present labor troubles, which loom so ominously in manufacturing, mining, and railroad centres, are another

reason why there should be a return to the earlier conditions of life in the United States, when the greater part of the population lived in the country.

The education of children in road building should begin in the kindergarten. Their blocks should be adapted to building roads and bridges; as they advance in knowledge they should from time to time be taught the importance of good roads, and the best method of their construction and maintenance; at college or at the university they should attend a course in highway construction, while probably no career would give greater success to the average college graduate than that of road engineer.

At the Massachusetts Institute of Technology there has been established, for about two years, an instructorship for the purpose of educating road engineers.

Harvard University has begun to appreciate the great need of educating engineers, and has opened a Road Department at the Lawrence Scientific School. Graduates of this school will be given the University degree of Road Engineer.

It is proposed to establish at Washington a permanent road exhibit and a college for the instruction of road engineers. School-teachers should do all that they can to lay the foundation of such instruction, as the knowledge is of such a practical and useful character that no matter what may be one's station in life, whether public or private, the ability to construct a good highway will always be of benefit.

ALBERT A. POPE.



## OPINIONS OF PUBLISHERS OF SCHOOL-BOOKS.

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" . . . . We shall be glad to correct any errors in our school publications to which our attention may be called. This is no new position on our part. It is that which we and our predecessors in this business have maintained for over half a century. To this extent we shall be very glad to co-operate with you, or with any one, in freeing the text-books of this country from error.

"From long experience in book-making we are convinced that it is, humanly speaking, impossible to produce a book that shall be absolutely accurate and free from error. Our efforts and our money are being constantly directed, however, to approximating more nearly to perfection. That our efforts have not been entirely barren of result needs no other proof than a comparison of the American text-books of today with those published in any other country, or with those published in America ten, fifteen, twenty, or more years ago. . . . "

" . . . . We appreciate the great importance of accuracy of statement in text-books, and not only expend large sums of money annually in maintaining an Editorial Department to make our publications accurate, but are always grateful to any one who, by calling our attention to an existing error, gives us the opportunity to correct it. . . . "

" . . . . We enclose herewith our comments upon the long list of criticisms which you sent to us on the 22d of April, and also the several criticisms submitted since that date. We have examined each one of these criticisms carefully, and through them have had our attention called to several errors. While a majority of the points criticised are not erroneous, and while several of the statements that we have changed can hardly be deemed errors so much as ambiguous or incomplete statements, still there remains a number of absolute errors. We are greatly obliged to you for having called our attention to these."

AMERICAN BOOK CO.

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" . . . . We shall be glad to see the pamphlet you are preparing, and at all times to render you any assistance that we can. . . . "

E. H. BUTLER & CO.

“ . . . . We are much obliged to you for submitting the matter to our consideration. . . . . ”

HARPER & BROTHERS.

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“ . . . . We have looked over the pamphlet with much interest, and believe that your efforts have resulted in much benefit to the cause of education. If it results also in stimulating public attention and interest in the matter of better roads it will be cause for further gratification.”

D. APPLETON & Co.

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“ . . . . We shall be very glad to have you mention the fact that this error was discovered by you, and that it was corrected by us at your instigation. . . . . ”

HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN & Co.

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“ . . . . We have always invited criticism to our books, have never obstructed comparison of them with those issued by other publishers, and have always been ready to kill or cure any book that could not stand such comparison. In a large number of our books and circulars appears a distinct request to teachers to notify us of any errors that they may find; and that it does not appear in all is more a matter of inadvertence than of disinclination. We are never notified of an error without hunting it to the ground and having it corrected, and even the fact that a statement challenges criticism, although it may be correct, often leads us to change the statement. . . . . ”

HENRY HOLT & Co.

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“ We thank you most cordially for your esteemed favor, . . . . and commend your enterprise. . . . . ”

SILVER, BURDETT & Co.

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“ . . . . We received the letter which you sent some time ago, and it was forwarded to the author for his consideration. . . . . Accept our thanks for your courtesy.”

SHELDON & Co.

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“ . . . . We shall be very glad to have you send us all the criticisms which you may receive through your correspondence, and any errors which are clearly such, or can be proved by reliable authority, will be cheerfully rectified. . . . . ”

UNIVERSITY PUBLISHING Co., New York.



## OPINIONS OF PRESIDENTS OF COLLEGES.

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“I think good might be done by a tribunal which would try to expose errors in accepted school-books. . . . ”

CHARLES W. ELIOT, *President Harvard University*,  
Cambridge, Mass.

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“Any effort that will render school text-books perfectly accurate is most commendable. I hope your enterprise will be crowned with success.”

E. H. CAPEN, *President Tufts College*,  
Medford, Mass.

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“ . . . The object which you seek to obtain — perfect accuracy of statement in books used in instruction — seems to me to be a very desirable one. Children naturally and properly have great confidence in the books which they study, and it is doubly important that all the statements made in such books should be in exact accord with facts, as far as they can be known.”

JOHN K. LORD, *Acting President Dartmouth College*,  
Hanover, N. H.

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“ . . . It seems to me that our school-books cannot be too accurate, and that any erroneous statements in them should be corrected. I am therefore entirely in sympathy with your organized effort to eliminate such errors.”

JOHN M. COULTER, *President University of Indiana*,  
Bloomington, Ind.

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“ . . . I heartily concur in the enterprise which you have inaugurated. I am confident that it will result in much good and benefit to teachers, and especially to the youth of the country. It will not only be the means of eradicating the errors of the text-books now in use, but in making authors and publishers more cautious in getting out new and revised editions.”

J. H. BENNETT, *Principal Tennessee Valley College*,  
Evansville, Tenn.

" . . . . The objects to be sought by the publication of this pamphlet seem to me to be very commendable. . . . "

JAMES G. K. MCQUE, *President Lake Forest University,*  
Lake Forest, Ill.

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"I regard your movement for the purpose of detecting errors in school-books a very much needed one, and, if wisely prosecuted, until all the errors in the text-books now in use are eliminated, will of course be a result very much desired. . . . "

B. D. COCKRILL, *President Trinity University,*  
Tehuacana, Texas.

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" . . . . It is certainly very desirable that erroneous statements should be eliminated from school-books as far as possible, and the publication of this pamphlet will certainly help."

REV. E. M. CRAVATH, D.D., *President Fisk University,*  
Nashville, Tenn.

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" . . . . You appear to have hit upon an admirable method of detecting and correcting mistakes. You will thus render a great service to teachers and others who use text-books. . . . "

E. S. FRISBEE, *President Wells College,*  
Aurora, N. Y.

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" . . . . I think the idea a good one. It occurs to me that a valuable service will be rendered the cause of education as well as the publishers themselves. In this work both teachers and publishers should be willing to co-operate. An error in the mechanical work of the book, or due to the carelessness of the author, should be eliminated as soon as possible, as in either case it will do incalculable mischief."

F. B. GAULT, *President University of Idaho,*  
Moscow, Idaho.

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" . . . . Your effort is a commendable one and deserves the co-operation of all who desire perfection in our text-books."

REV. E. A. GOBBLE, *President Central Pennsylvania College,*  
New Berlin, Pa.

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" . . . . I sympathize heartily with the attempt to eliminate errors from text-books. I hope it may meet with success."

GEORGE F. SWAIN, *Professor Institute of Technology,*  
Boston, Mass.

“ . . . . You are doing a good work in pointing out these errors, and it will surely lead to greater accuracy. Without doubt, educators should press this work forward.”

R. C. HUGHES, *Vice-President Tabor College,*  
Tabor, Iowa.

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“ . . . . I think the objects sought to be obtained in its publication are of paramount importance, and would gladly aid in the good work in any way possible.”

STEPHEN A. JONES, *President State University,*  
Reno, Nev.

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“I think your idea a good one with reference to having errors in school-books pointed out. If such exist, neither author, editor, or publisher should desire to have them perpetuated in successive editions, and such a collection as you have made, if circulated among teachers, will tend to keep some more wide awake than they are.”

E. R. LONG, *Chairman Faculty, Arkansas College,*  
Batesville, Ark.

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“ . . . . I regard the move one in the right direction, and most sensible. It must prove an incalculable aid to schools and publishers, and result in lessening the necessity and craze for a constant change of text-books, which seems to so largely prevail with some teachers and schools.”

JOHN R. H. LATCHAW, *President Findlay College,*  
Findlay, Ohio.

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“ . . . . The work certainly commends itself. . . . ”

LOWELL M. MCAFEE, *President Park College,*  
Parkville, Mo.

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“ . . . . This is doubtless a long-needed step. In the number of new school-books being issued now there seems to be no end, and not a few of them show carelessness in compilation and hurry in publication. The step you have taken will, I believe, be for the good of all concerned.”

WM. H. OBENCHAIN, *President Ogden College,*  
Bowling Green, Ky.

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“ . . . . Such work cannot but result in securing greater accuracy where accuracy is most important.”

H. L. STETSON, *President Des Moines College,*  
Des Moines, Iowa.

" . . . . It is certainly very desirable to purge all mistakes from the books which we place in the hands of the children of our public schools, and I hope that your publication of them will lead to the removal of many, if not all, of them."

W. H. SCOTT, *President Ohio State University,*  
Columbus, Ohio.

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" . . . . I make immediate answer expressing gratification that systematic efforts are being made to insure accuracy, which includes completeness in all our text-books. Since 'the world is full of things and constantly becoming fuller,' according to David Swing's quaint saying, accuracy in detail must be ever becoming more rather than less difficult; at least the opportunity for mistake is becoming practically boundless. May the apparatus for accuracy as nearly as possible keep pace."

SYLVESTER F. SCOVEL, *President University of Wooster,*  
Wooster, Ohio.

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"By all means let us have exact fact and truth in the text-books, though the heavens fall."

W. I. STOTT, *President Franklin College,*  
Franklin, Ind.

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" . . . . I have not questioned that your movement is in the interest of careful and painstaking accuracy in the class room and in the office of the book-maker and editor."

J. B. SHEARER, *President Davidson College,*  
Davidson, N. C.

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"It is a grand idea. . . ."

J. V. N. STANDISH, *President Lombard University,*  
Galesburg, Ill.

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" . . . . There can be no question as to the value of the work that you are doing in this direction, and I believe that you are entitled to the gratitude of all educators everywhere."

CHAS. E. TAYLOR, *President Wake Forest College,*  
Wake Forest, N. C.



## OPINIONS OF SUPERINTENDENTS OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

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“Permit me to say that inasmuch as in a multitude of counsellors there is wisdom, the object sought to be obtained by the publication of your pamphlet is one that will no doubt be productive of great good.” J. W. ANDERSON, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*,  
California.

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“I am much pleased with the little book, and think its mission a worthy one. I have often pondered with regret over the errors, false statements, and false ideas that are perpetuated from teacher to pupil through misstatements in text-books, and hope your effort in this direction will be rewarded by a higher standard of accuracy in the books, and a greater effort on the part of author and publisher to make them as nearly perfect as possible, as too often those who use them are unable to make a correction, and too ready to accept every statement a text-book contains.”

LAURA J. EISENHUTH, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*,  
North Dakota.

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“ . . . . I approve of your work. No harm can come from judicious unbiased criticism. The more of this the better.”

S. E. WOLFE, *Superintendent of Public Schools*,  
Missouri.

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“ . . . . I think your pamphlet will be very useful to a host of teachers. . . . Every correction contained in the pamphlet has its value, and I wish you success in placing it in the hands of those to whom it properly belongs.”

H. M. GAINES, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*,  
Kansas.

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“ . . . . I heartily endorse your efforts and the object sought to be accomplished by the publication of your pamphlet. . . . ”

W. N. SHEATS, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*,  
Florida.

"There surely is a very broad field for such a work, and I sincerely hope the objects for which it is prepared will be attained."

JOHN F. MURRAY, *Superintendent of Public Instruction,*

Colorado.

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" . . . . I wish you success in the work you have undertaken. I do not see how it can result otherwise than in good to the schools using text-books."

D. L. KIEHLE, *Superintendent of Public Instruction,*

Minnesota.

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" . . . . I am glad that you have begun this crusade, and feel sure that only good will come of it. By means of a careful and methodical compilation of these errors, I am sure that the books placed in the hands of our children will become much better and more accurate."

HENRY R. PETTENGILL, *Superintendent of Public Instruction,*

Michigan.

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" . . . . The object sought to be obtained by the publication of this pamphlet is good, and you have my hearty good wishes in the matter. I heartily wish the whole teaching and educational force in the country would put its hand to the task of voting out not only errors but slanders, lies, and sectionalism from the school-books of the country."

JOHN C. SCARBOROUGH, *Superintendent of Public Instruction,*

North Carolina.

## OPINIONS OF SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS.

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" . . . . I think your idea an excellent one, and would be pleased to assist you in any way that is in my power."

EVA L. KIRKPATRICK, *County Superintendent,*

Winfield, Kan.

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" . . . . Your object seems to be a good one. An association formed for the purpose of eliminating errors from text-books would be of great value. . . . "

J. M. NORCROSS, *Superintendent of Schools,*

Weymouth, Mass.

" . . . . I have looked at your pamphlet, and I have read portions of it with care. It seems to me that you are doing a great service to the cause of education, to the children, and to the publishers by eliminating the errors which frequently creep into the text-books used in our schools. . . . "

A. P. MARBLE, *Superintendent of Public Schools*,  
Worcester, Mass.

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" . . . . It is hardly necessary to say that every person connected with public educational work is very much interested in your endeavor to eradicate any errors that may exist in text-books in common use. The means which you have taken to obtain the data necessary to the correction of such books is certainly efficacious, and your whole enterprise is very much to be commended. . . . "

CHAS. W. COLE, *Superintendent of Schools*,  
Albany, N. Y.

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" . . . . You have certainly done a good work as far as you have gone, and deserve the thanks of educators for this beginning. I most heartily favor your plan of organized effort to discover and eliminate other errors. Any assistance I can give in the movement will be a pleasure."

R. J. COUDON, *Superintendent of Schools*,  
Everett, Mass.

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" . . . . An effort to secure the elimination of errors from text-books is to be commended, and you are deserving of the thanks of educators for your interest in this direction."

A. D. COLEGROVE, *Superintendent of Schools*,  
Corey, Pa.

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" . . . . I am much interested in the pamphlet and the movement you are connected with. . . . Many errors are apt to creep in, and a little care will weed them out. . . . "

WILLIAM A. MOWRY, *Superintendent of Schools*,  
Salem, Mass.

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" . . . . I am heartily in sympathy with the movement you have inaugurated, and wish it all success. Too much cannot be done in this matter, and the publisher who resents such action advertises his disregard for accuracy in his own publications."

J. I. BUCK, *Superintendent of Schools*,  
Warren, Mass.

" . . . . Your work in the direction of eliminating errors from text-books is in the highest degree praiseworthy. There can be no question as to the desirability of making organized effort in this matter. Every educator will lend you his fullest assistance."

IRVING A. HEIKES, *Superintendent of Schools*,  
Plymouth, Pa.

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" . . . . I am sure that it meets with the hearty approval of all progressive teachers. You are doing far more than appears on the surface by your practical criticism of school-books. Very few will ever realize to what extent the scrutiny and examination of books will be intensified as influenced by your movement. . . . "

W. L. MACGOWAN, *Superintendent of Schools*,  
Warren, Pa.

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" . . . . Your efforts cannot fail to accomplish much good. We are suffering from too many text-books, because of the hurried and careless preparation of some and 'made-to-sell' nature of others."

O. S. WILLIAMS, *Superintendent of Schools*,  
Dedham, Mass.

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" . . . . I certainly am in accord with your expressed purpose to eliminate errors from our school-books. . . . "

J. C. PHILLIPS, *Superintendent of Schools*,  
Bath, Me.

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" . . . . I most heartily approve your efforts in this direction, and hope that success will crown them."

J. FAIRBANKS, *Superintendent of Schools*,  
Springfield, Mo.

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" . . . . The plan is excellent, and will be of great assistance to teachers and superintendents. . . . "

D. P. DAME, *Superintendent of Schools*,  
Webster, Mass.

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"I presume there can be but one opinion as to the necessity of such a publication. To argue in its favor would be an evidence of weakness. All I can say is, I trust that the good work will go on until every text-book of any character has received a thorough examination."

ALBERT HART, *Superintendent of Schools*,  
Sacramento, Cal.



"I think it a most excellent plan."

MARY L. POLAND, *Supervisor of Schools*,  
Brattleboro, Vt.

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" . . . . The elimination of errors in fact from our text-books used in our schools is a step in the right direction."

E. JASPER EDMANDS, *Superintendent of Schools*,  
Baldwinsville, Mass.

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"I think your purpose of making an organized effort to rid text-books of errors will readily commend itself to educators."

H. S. ROGERS, *Superintendent of Schools*,  
Hutchinson, Kan.

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" . . . . I regard the object of the pamphlet excellent. . . . "

J. C. HARTZLER, *Superintendent of Schools*,  
Newark, Ohio.

## OPINIONS OF PRINCIPALS OF ACADEMIES.

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" . . . . It is a good thing. No error should be permitted to live after it is discovered, and the sooner general attention is called to it the better. You are moving in the right direction. . . . "

GEO. A. WILLIAMS, *President Vermont Academy*,  
Saxton's River, Vt.

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"Certainly every effort to improve our text-books by the elimination of errors is commendable. I can conceive no possible objection to such a proposition. . . . "

WALTER E. RANGER, *Principal Lyndon Institute*,  
Lyndon, Vt.

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" . . . . Your object is worthy the support of all school men, and any company that is not willing to have its publications criticised ought not to place its books before an intelligent public. I am heartily in favor of your project."

C. M. JANSKEY, *Professor Mathematics*,  
*Southern Iowa Normal Scientific Business Institute*,  
Bloomfield, Ia.

" . . . . Impartial criticism is always to be commended. I think you are doing a good work. A very large majority of the teachers of the country depend solely on the text-books for information; it is therefore important that texts should be correct. Again, there are occasionally some very shoddy books placed upon the market; some very wild statements are occasionally printed and afterwards read and believed. . . . "

JOHN D. MEESE, *English Department,*  
*South-Western State Normal School,*  
 California, Pa.

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"The attempt to remove all errors from text-books meets my hearty approval. There is quite enough error and falsehood in the world without our teaching it in the schools. The truth and the truth only should be taught."

REV. A. MATTICE, *Principal Seymour Smith Academy,*  
 Pine Plains, N. Y.

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" . . . . I believe it will prove to be of value to teachers and publishers; to the former by causing them to examine for themselves all statements; to the latter by requiring more care in revision and publishing of books offered to them."

ISAAC F. JOHNSON, *Principal Friends' School,*  
 Wilmington, Del.

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" . . . . The object sought is a commendable one. An organized effort to eliminate all errors from our text-books would result in much good."

REV. GEO. P. HOLT, *Principal Shenandoah Institute,*  
 Dayton, Va.

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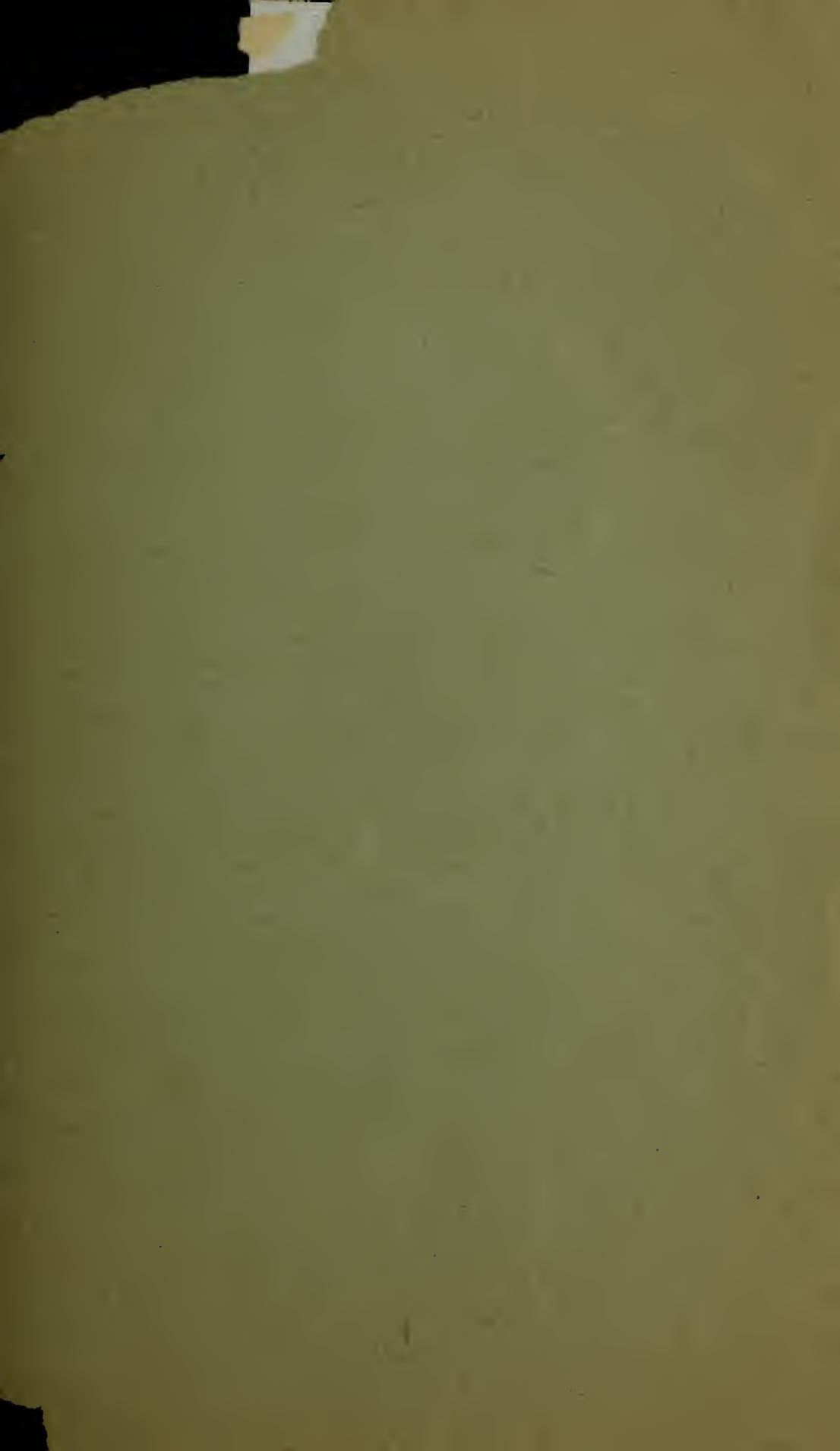
" . . . . There ought to be, and I believe are, no better critics of school-books than teachers, both as to method employed and as to the facts. Your work in this direction . . . is worthy of commendation."

REV. CHARLES C. HEMMINGWAY, *President Pritchett Institute,*  
 Glasgow, Mo.

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" . . . . You have the right plan. I think there is no other way in which errata can be so quickly and completely eliminated from our texts than this way that you have invented; the step is much needed, —we need purer books rather than more new ones."

H. S. GILBERT, *President North Washington Institute,*  
 North Hope, Pa.



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